

SITUATION REPORT NO. 2
INCIDENT NO. 2004-021
DATE: March 29, 2004 Time: 6:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Spring Flooding** induced by heavy rains on frozen ground and ice-packed drains, streams and rivers.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. **DAMAGES:** A flood warning issued for Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Grand Forks, Griggs, Nelson, Pembina, Ramsey, Steele, Towner and Walsh Counties has been extended through Tuesday, March 30. The Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service (NWS) reported that runoff from excessive rainfall and snowmelt continues to produce overland flooding across portions of northeast North Dakota. Many roads remain impassable due to high water levels. Forecasters expect these flood conditions to continue for the next two to three days. However, dry conditions forecasted for the remainder of the week will cause a slow reduction in river levels.

Barnes County

Multiple roads are flooding in the communities of Mini Lake, Oriska and Weimer. Culverts are flowing freely.

Benson County

Township and county roads are inundated due to heavy rains and frozen ground. Flash flooding and heavy runoff has caused heavy erosion to road surfaces and shoulders. School bus and mail routes are limited due to unsafe road conditions. The Benson County Road Department is flagging unsafe and inundated roads. With road restrictions in force, limited gravel hauling can be done to repair roads. Thawing of ground has helped ease overland flooding.

Cavalier County

On March 29, the County Emergency Manager reported ponding in the northern part of Langdon has stabilized and levels are lowering. On March 27-28, Cavalier County had 1.93 inches of rain. There is an estimated 25 to 30 residents impacted by the flooding.

Foster County

On March 29, the County Emergency Manager reported nine gravel road washouts. Foster County recorded 2.02 inches of rain on March 27-28.

Grand Forks County

The city of Emerado issued a voluntary evacuation on March 29. Water is flowing over roads in the Manvel area.

Nelson County

Water was flowing over many roads in the county on March 28 but had receded overnight. The Sheyenne River is very swollen and has risen considerably. County Road 35, south of McVille, was closed due to water covering the road. County Road 24, east of Tolna, is blocked due to a one-mile area where water is flowing over the road. Two miles north of McVille on Highway 35, a culvert has washed out and the road is closed. South of Tolna, County Road 25 is blocked. South of Pekin in Osago Township, a township road is blocked south of a bridge. In Hamlin Township, a road is blocked off and the culverts are washed out.

Pembina County

On March 29, the County Emergency Manager reported that numerous roads within the county are under water. The following cities have flood response operations currently ongoing: Crystal: Water is slowly receding, and the school, which was threatened by floodwaters, was saved. Several homeowners reported water in their basements; in one home, water reached the main floor. Two families and one individual were sheltered at a local hotel on Sunday, March 28. Four homes are without power due to basement flooding. Hamilton: All roads are inundated and water is receding. Cavalier: The Tongue River is out of its banks and the Renwick Dam is currently at six feet above normal pool and running at 475 cubic feet per second (cfs); during the 199 flood, the dam measured eight feet above normal pool and was running 670 cfs. St. Thomas: Water is receding, and workers are transporting sandbags to Grafton. Walhalla: The Pembina River has dropped one foot since Sunday night and the river at Neche is down two feet. Water is flowing over County Road 12 near LeRoy.

Ramsey County

On March 27-28, rainfall amounts varied from two inches in the City of Devils Lake to three inches of rain throughout the Devils Lake Basin. The County Highway Department reported water was flowing over some roads. Overland flooding waters are threatening a farmstead west of Devils Lake, where nearby culverts are frozen. All water storage areas in the Lake Region Area are full.

Steele County

On March 27-28, two to four inches of rain fell on frozen ground and snow-packed areas, causing flooding. Steele County has many county and township roads that are damaged or still under water.

Trails County

The Goose and Red Rivers are flooding. The Goose River has risen 9.5 feet; flood stage is seven feet. The Red River is near flood stage by Halstad. One

rural Portland residence has been sandbagged to protect the home from rising floodwaters. Pumps have also been provided to the homeowner. As of this time, several roads are under water and closed in rural Traill County. One bridge has been damaged by floodwaters west of Portland. Sandbagging is underway at the Hillsboro public pool. The Hillsboro Park and Goose River Golf Club are inundated.

Walsh County

Floodwaters have isolated rural residents due to water topping the ring dikes surrounding homes in the Minto and Grafton areas. In the City of Grafton, the water is flowing steadily through the town with the north and northwest parts being the most affected. Rapidly rising floodwaters, from Grafton to Hoople, have resulted in numerous evacuations, making it difficult for officials to determine an exact number of evacuees. Grafton officials opened a shelter for evacuees at the N.D. National Guard (NDNG) Armory.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local agencies responding to the emergency included law enforcement, city and county administrative offices, city, county and township public works departments, communications centers and emergency management offices.

STATE: The Governor and his Chief of Staff, the Adjutant General, the N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT), the N.D. Highway Patrol (HP), the N.D. State Water Commission (SWC), the N.D. Public Service Commission (PSC), the N.D. National Guard (NDNG) and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management/State Radio Communications (DEM) have been involved with monitoring and information exchange.

FEDERAL: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security have been notified regarding flooding conditions.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross (ARC) plans to open a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). There are four levels of a DRC; the one planned for the flooded area will be level three. The Red Cross has issued a disaster number, DR-689-ND, March flooding. The ARC is sending 200 cleanup kits to Pembina County, 200 to Walsh County and approximately 50 to Grand Forks County. The ARC is also providing meals in Minto, will be using emergency response vehicles from Minot and Grand Forks. The ARC temporarily opened a shelter at the Emerado School for six people.

Emergency shelters and meals are also being provided by The Salvation Army.

The Mennonite Disaster Services and the Cavalier Air Force Station (CAFS) have volunteered to aid with sandbagging.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On March 29, Governor John Hoeven issued an emergency flood declaration to assist counties affected by overland, stream and river flooding in North Dakota. Heavy rainfall combined with frozen ground, ice-impacted drains, streams, and rivers has severely affected public health and safety, as well as economic and environmental interests in the flooded areas. The Governor, the N.D. Division of Emergency Management

Director and the Assistant Engineer of the State Water Commission toured the area by air on March 29 to see firsthand the effects of flooding in the northeastern part of the state.

Emergency declarations have been issued by the Boards of County Commissioners for Pembina and Traill Counties. Officials for the city of Michigan in Nelson County also issued an emergency declaration. The Walsh County Commission and the City of Grafton issued disaster declarations.

Approximately 172,000 sandbags are enroute to Walsh County from the National Guard at Camp Grafton in Devil Lake and from the USACE at Fergus Falls, MN, and Homme Dam in Walsh County.

The N.D. Public Service Commission (PSC) reported that Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) crews are working in the Grafton area to remove and cap inundated natural gas meters at private residences and businesses. PSC officials indicate that safety inspections must be conducted before service is restored.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Technical assistance, as well as help for road closure and sandbags resource identification, has been provided by state officials and the USACE.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: None has been reported to the State Operations Center (SOC) at this time.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director